

MEDIA ADVISORY
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JAEGER APPROVES LOTTERY MEASURE FOR NOVEMBER BALLOT

Bismarck, N.D. - Secretary of State Al Jaeger announced his office has completed the review of the petitions proposing a constitutional initiative relating to the state being authorized to join a multi-state lottery.

"Our review shows that the petitions contain signatures of qualified electors in excess of the required amount (25,688)," said Jaeger. "Therefore, the initiative will be placed upon the November 5 general election ballot as a constitutional initiated measure."

Jaeger's office reviewed 554 petitions and the signatures of almost 27,000 persons who signed the petitions submitted by the sponsoring committee on August 7. As a part of that review process, randomly selected signers were also mailed postcards asking if they had signed the petition in accordance with state law.

The review by Jaeger's office showed that the sponsoring committee exceeded the threshold by 179 signatures. This was only after the sponsoring committee was allowed to make corrections to thirty-five petitions containing a variety of errors, primarily notary mistakes. The North Dakota Constitution allows sponsoring committees to make corrections to petitions and signatures after they have been submitted to the Secretary of State.

"Our review process is thorough and exhaustive," said Jaeger. "Each petition is measured and evaluated against the same set of criteria and standards. Judging from our review of the petitions and the responses of the randomly sampled signers, I am confident this petition was circulated according to the guidelines and standards set out by state law."

The initiative will appear on the November 5 General Election ballot as Initiated Constitutional Measure No. 2¹. The "youth" initiative, previously certified for the ballot on August 28 will appear on the ballot as Initiated Statutory Measure No. 3.

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Attached, please find a copy of Jaeger's letter addressed to Andrew Maragos, chairman of the sponsoring committee, acknowledging the completion of the Secretary of State's review and the approval of the measure. Also included is an updated timeline for the measure along with a summary of the signature review process completed by the Secretary of State's office.

Questions concerning the review process or the attached summary of the signature review process should be directed to Lee Ann Oliver, Elections Specialist, in the Elections Division of the Secretary of State's office at (701) 328-4146.

¹ Constitutional measures are numbered first, then statutory initiatives are second, followed by referred measures. All measures are numbered consecutively within their respective categories in the order received. Because the legislature placed a constitutional measure relating to the taxable status of land held for conservation or wildlife purposes on the November 5 General Election ballot, it will appear on the ballot as Constitutional Measure No. 1, followed by the lottery measure, which will appear as Initiated Constitutional Measure No. 2.